



Where Visions are Built

March 12, 2012

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Room 3700, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Support for SB-25, Section 32

Dear Committee Members:

I urge you to support SB-25 and, in particular, Section 32, which provides bond funding for the very successful Money Follows the Person (MFP) program.

CIL has administered this grants-in-aid program on behalf of DECD since 2009. The funds are used to provide accessibility modifications to the homes of people who have been institutionalized in nursing homes not because of medical necessity, but because their home environments are too physically restrictive to accommodate their disabilities.

This transition of individuals out of nursing homes results in significant savings for our state. In the May 2010 OLR Research Report #2010-R-0209, it was stated that, per DSS, the cost of community-based care for MFP recipients was approximately 1/3 of the cost that it had been to service them in nursing homes. While there may exist a misperception that all people in nursing homes are elderly, in fact, some of our MFP clients are quite young, so the cost avoidance the state realizes can accrue for decades.

It is notable that MFP funds can be leveraged with Medicaid Waiver funds. In our most recent round of MFP funding, CIL has applied for and recovered Medicaid Waiver monies equal to 9% of the MFP client assistance expenditures, thereby extending the value of the state's investment in this worthy program beyond the bond funds contributed.

As compelling as the fiscal arguments are for MFP, one should not overlook the human benefit from Connecticut's investment in the program. MFP accessibility modifications provide people with the opportunity to experience a level of independence and concomitant sense of dignity that are impossible in an institutional setting.

The need for bond funding for MFP is urgent. In the nine months since we received our most recent MFP contract amendment, we have allocated all the funds to eligible recipients, 12 of 17 projects have been completed so the people with disabilities could transition home, and the remaining projects are in the final stages of construction. The money is put to good use quickly, to the benefit both of the state and of the people who are eager to move back home.

Our referral sources at the area agencies on aging report that there is an extensive waiting list of individuals for whom MFP funds can provide a cost-effective and desirable alternative to long term nursing home care.

Thank you for your consideration in supporting SB-25.

Sincerely yours,

Donald A. Neel
Vice President, Administration and Finance